

In the Specification

At page 1, amend paragraph 1 which was added by an earlier filed preliminary amendment, as follows:

This application is a continuation ~~the National Stage of~~ International Application No. PCT/EP99/08001, filed October 27, 1999, which claims priority to German application number 198 51 423.9 filed on November 7, 1998, and which is herein incorporated by reference.